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QUARTERLY JOURNAL

OF THE

STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

JUNE, 1856.

Twenty-second Anniversary Meeting of the Statistical Society. Session 1855–56.

[Held at No. 12, St. James's Square, London, Saturday, 15th March, 1856.]

LORD HARRY GEORGE VANE, M.P., *in the Chair.*

THE Circular convening the Meeting having been read and confirmed, Dr. Guy, one of the Honorary Secretaries, read the following Report of the Council on the progress of the Society during the past year:—

Report of Council.

The Council of the Statistical Society, in reporting the proceedings of the Session 1855-56 have, in the first place, to acknowledge the honour done to the Society, and the advantage conferred upon it, by the attendance of its Patron, His Royal Highness Prince Albert, at the ordinary Meeting on the 18th of June, 1855. On that occasion, as in the year 1849, when the Society had the honour of receiving a similar visit, His Royal Highness was pleased to evince great interest in the proceedings of the Society, and to take part in the discussion.

The Session 1855-56 has also been distinguished by an unusual addition to the number of its Members. As many as 48 new Members have been elected; and as the losses sustained by deaths and resignations, and by defaulters, only amount to 18, there is a permanent addition to the Society of 30 Members. The Council attribute this increase of Members partly to the better appreciation on the part of the public of the objects of the Society, partly to the growing sense of the necessity of statistical information, and partly to the exertions of Members in making known to their friends the advantages which the Society offers, and the very moderate terms upon which those advantages may be secured.

The Society now consists of 382 Members, of whom 313 are annual subscribers, and 69 have compounded. The largest number of Members at any time enrolled on the books of the Society is 435. It is to be hoped that the causes which have contributed to the recent increase will continue in operation till this maximum is again attained, or even exceeded.

The income of the Society for the year ending December 31,

1855, including the balance in hand at the beginning of the year, amounts, within a few shillings, to the income similarly calculated of the year preceding. The items, however, of which the incomes of the two years consist differ widely; the sales of the Journal and Index, which in the year 1855 fell short of those of 1854 by upwards of 100*l.*, being compensated by an increase of nearly equal amount in the subscriptions and compositions.

The expenditure for the year 1855 was in excess of the income by upwards of 30*l.*; and the balance in hand stands also at a lower figure than usual. This excess of expenditure and reduction of the balance in hand, are explained by the payment to the Society's printer of the sum of 60*l.* for the September Journal, so as to leave, for the first time for many years, no liability under this head.

The liabilities of the Society, which amounted to 325*l.* in 1852, to 135*l.* in 1853, and to 111*l.* in 1854, were increased, at the beginning of this year, to 166*l.* More than half of this sum is chargeable to the new Catalogue and the painting and decoration of the Society's rooms. But for these unusual items of expenditure, which will not recur, the liabilities of the Society would have again decreased; and there is every reason to believe that at the end of the current year the liabilities will again become subject to the old law of progressive decrease. The sum of 166*l.* being now paid, the Society is free from liability.

The Society's Library, which was greatly improved in appearance last year by the binding of an unusual number of volumes, and by the re-arrangement of the books, consequent on the compilation of the Catalogue, has received several considerable additions. Among the principal donors the Council have great pleasure in mentioning the name of their former Honorary Secretary Mr. Rawson W. Rawson, and the names of Dr. Farr, Dr. Berg, and the Baron Czoernig.

Dr. Berg was elected a Foreign Honorary Member during the last year, in company with M. Maurice Block, Sous-chef du Bureau de la Statistique Générale de France, and M. Xavier Heuschling, Secretary of the Central Commission of Statistics in Belgium.

The Council announce, with extreme regret, the loss which they have sustained during the past year by the deaths of the Duke of Somerset, one of the original Members of the Society, of Sir William Molesworth, our late Colonial Minister, and of Lord Wharncliffe, who had but recently been elected a Member of the Society and of the Council.

A change has also taken place in the Society's staff in consequence of the resignation of Mr. Edward Cheshire, our late Assistant-Secretary, to whom the Council have had the pleasure of expressing their sense of the great value of his services. Mr. Edward Tudor Scargill has been appointed in his stead.

The papers read at the Ordinary Meetings of the Society have possessed, at least, their usual amount of interest, and have fairly sustained the reputation of the Society. The paper by Mr. Hodge "On the Mortality arising from Naval Operations," deriving an interest from the war in which we are engaged no less than from the very able and complete manner in which the subject was treated, was read on the evening of the visit of His Royal Highness Prince

Albert. Colonel Sykes's paper "On the External Commerce of India," so lately read, illustrated in a very striking manner the absorption of silver which has been going on in India for so many years, and has reached so considerable an amount. Mr. Babbage's subtle "Analysis of the Statistics of the Clearing House," and Mr. Gilbart's able "Retrospect of London Banking;" Mr. Locke's paper "On the Mining Resources of France," and Mr. Hunt's paper "On the present state of the Mining Industries of the United Kingdom," form a valuable series of treatises on Economic Statistics. The Rev. Robert Everest has favoured the Society with a paper "On the Distribution of Emigrants from Europe over the surface of the United States;" and Dr. Guy, in a paper "On the Nature and Extent of the Benefits conferred by Hospitals on the Working Classes and the Poor," has discussed questions of considerable interest to all the supporters of hospitals and other charitable institutions. Lastly, Mr. Leone Leyi has favoured the Society with the same complete "Résumé of the Proceedings of the Statistical Congress at Paris" as he did two years since of the Congress held at Brussels. In addition to these papers, which have been printed in the Society's Journal, several valuable contributions have been received from the Statistical Section of the British Association, held at Glasgow last September. This section, it may be observed in passing, was unusually well attended, and was proportionately successful.

Nearly contemporaneously with this Congress of scientific men from all parts of the world there was held at Paris a Congress devoted exclusively to statistics. The Society was represented at this Congress by Viscount Ebrington and the Rev. E. Wyatt-Edgell, and by Mr. Leone Levi, who so lately gave to the Society an account of its proceedings. Among the most important results of this gathering of the statists of all countries for one common purpose, the Council have to notice with special satisfaction the steps taken to hold, during the current year, a Congress first designated a *Congrès de Charité*, and more recently a *Congrès de Bienfaisance*. The place selected for holding this Congress is Brussels, and the date fixed is the 15th of September. In consequence of a communication which M. Ducpètiaux, to whom the task of organizing this Congress has been assigned, has had with Dr. Farr, the Council has had its attention directed to the expediency of promoting the objects of this Congress by appointing a Committee to collect information on the subject of the Beneficent Institutions of England, but especially of the Metropolis. This Committee, which consists of the Earl of Shaftesbury, who has kindly consented to act as Chairman, of Lord Stanley, Dr. Farr, Mr. Horace Mann, Mr. Tottie, and the Honorary Secretaries, has already met, and made arrangements for carrying into practical effect the views of the Council. As the Members of the Society are in possession of the plan of the Committee, it is not necessary to enter into further explanations on the present occasion. The Council, however, would avail themselves of this opportunity to invite the co-operation of every Member of the Society in this very useful work, and will feel grateful for any information which they may be able to afford, especially in respect of the less considerable and least known of the beneficent institutions and societies of London.

By the meeting of the Congress in September the Council hope that the Committee will have made some progress with their inquiry, and will be ready to place before the English public, and to present to their friends in Brussels, some interesting and instructive results.

Mr. Newmarch, another of the Honorary Secretaries, then read the Balance Sheet of Assets and Liabilities.

Mr. William Tayler moved the adoption of the Report and of the Abstract of Receipts and Payments, and Balance Sheet of Assets and Liabilities.

Mr. Barker seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Newmarch then moved—

"That the Ordinary Meetings of this Society be held hereafter on Tuesday evenings instead of on Monday evenings,"

Stating, that Monday evenings were inconvenient for those Fellows of the Society who were members of either House of Parliament, and that the alteration proposed had the sanction of the Council.

Mr. R. Monckton Milnes, M.P., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously; the change to take place at the beginning of next Session.

A ballot was then taken for the President, Council, and Officers, for the year ensuing, and the following was declared to be the List:

President.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Harrowby.

Council.

*Charles Babbage, Esq., M.A., F.R.S.
James Bird, M.D.
Sir John Peter Boileau, Bart., F.R.S.
William Farr, Esq., F.R.S.
The Right Hon. The Earl Fitzwilliam, K.G., F.R.S.
James William Gilbart, Esq., F.R.S.
William Augustus Guy, M.B.
The Right Hon. The Earl of Harrowby
*Frederick Hendriks, Esq.
James Heywood, Esq., M.P., F.R.S.
*William Barwick Hodge, Esq.
Thomas Hodgkin, M.D.
Charles Jellicoe, Esq.
William Golden Lumley, Esq., B.C.L.
The Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie, F.G.S.
Herman Merivale, Esq.
Horace Mann, Esq.
William Newmarch, Esq.
*William Drummond Oswald, Esq.
The Right Hon. Lord Overstone
The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of Oxford, F.R.S.
The Right Hon. Sir John Somerset Pakington, Bart., M.P.
*George Kettilby Rickards, Esq.
*The Right Hon. The Earl of Shaftesbury
Robert Aglionby Slaney, Esq.
The Right Hon. Lord Stanley, M.P.
Colonel W. H. Sykes, F.R.S.
Thomas Tooke, Esq., F.R.S.
John Willam Tottie, Esq.
Lord Harry George Vane, M.P.
The Rev. E. Wyatt-Edgell

* *Those marked thus are New Members.*

Treasurer.

William Farr, Esq., F.R.S.

Honorary Secretaries.

William Augustus Guy, M.B. | William Newmarch, Esq.
William Golden Lumley, Esq.

Professor Rickards moved, and Mr. Hendriks seconded, a vote of thanks to the retiring President, Council, and Officers.

Dr. Whewell moved, and Mr. Lodge seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and the Meeting separated.

Abstract of RECEIPTS *and* PAYMENTS *for the Year ended the* 31*st of* DECEMBER, 1855.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward (less debit balance of Petty Cash).	73	12	11
Arrears 14 Subscriptions, at 2 guineas	29	8	0
Subscriptions for 1855—289 at 2 guineas	606	18	0
Dividends	25	5	6
Compositions—3 at 20 guineas	63	0	0
Journal Sales (including Index Sales, £23 5*s.*)	88	4	10
Institute of Actuaries (Rent)	75	0	0
Sundries	2	18	0
	£964	7	3

PAYMENTS.				£	s.	d.
Rent				150	0	0
Salaries				212	10	0
Journal: Printing (5 Parts)	£294	6	8			
Journal: Advertising	32	16	8			
Journal: Compiling Index	4	4	0	331	7	4
Catalogue				45	0	0
Library				32	7	10
Stationery and Printing				41	18	4
Postage and Receipt Stamps				18	11	8
Firing and Lighting				15	1	11
Ordinary Meetings				21	15	2
Office Furniture				39	6	4
Miscellaneous				24	15	3
Balance carried forward (after deducting debit balance of Petty Cash)				31	13	5
				£964	7	3

Balance Sheet of ASSETS *and* LIABILITIES *on the* 31*st of* DECEMBER, 1855.

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
Cash Balance in Bank (after deducting debit balance of Petty Cash)	31	13	5
Stock, New 3 per Cents., £569 17*s.* 0*d.*, cost	567	0	0
Stock, 3 per Cent. Consols, £328 15*s.* 4*d.*, ,,	300	0	0
Office Furniture, Fixtures, &c., (exclusive of Library)	100	0	0
Arrears 10 Subscriptions, at 2 guineas	21	0	0
	£1,019	13	5

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
Printing of Journal for December, 1855	64	5	10
Carpenter	36	0	5
Painting (deducting £8 8*s.* 0*d.* to be paid by Institute of Actuaries)	28	12	0
Floor Cloth and Dyeing	17	4	6
Stationery and Printing	12	0	0
Miscellaneous	8	1	7
Balance in favour of Society	853	9	1
	£1,019	13	5

Examined and approved—

(Signed) W. B. HODGE, FREDK. HENDRIKS, JOHN WM. TOTTIE, } Auditors.

12, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, LONDON,
1*st February*, 1856.